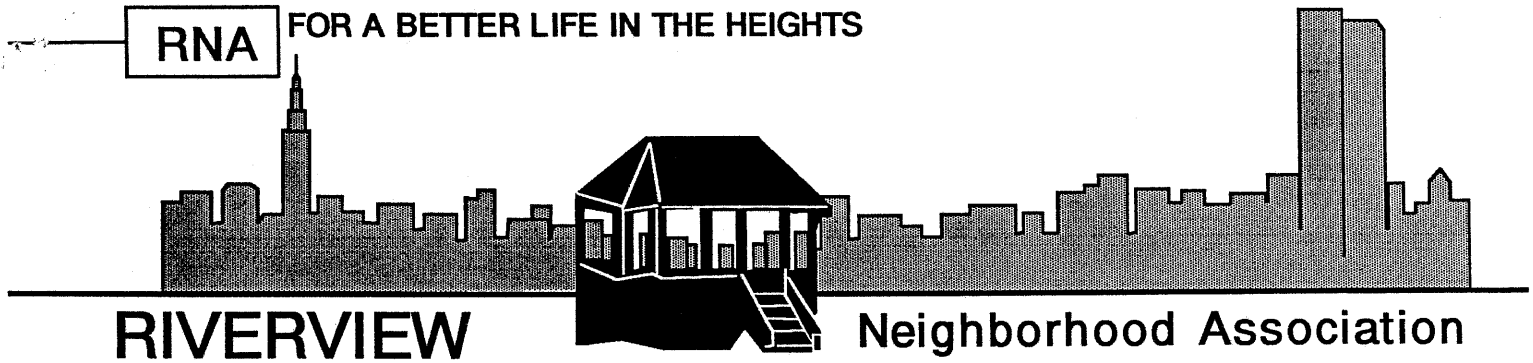
RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS



RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

MAY 1989

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Conrad's Corner:

Of all the candidates running for Mayor, only one seems to have a clear picture of the problems facing the small home owner of Jersey City. The rest having been invited to a Chamber of Commerce Forum are all set to continue the tax abatement syndrome of the past in the hope of getting more of the nebulous ratables which were supposed to lower our taxes but raised them instead.

The next mayor will be faced with the same problems Mayor Dunn of Elizabeth had when his city went bankrupt. Police, firemen, and city employees had to be laid off because State and Federal funds had been cut off. In addition Transport of N.J. plans to cut service and increase fares which may no longer make Hudson County the bedroom of New York it used to be. A new New York State income tax for N.J. residents working in New York may also make New Yorker's think twice before moving to New Jersey.

The only hope of saving the city will be to cut the tax rate from thirty dollars to eighteen dollars a thousand. Tough times are ahead, our new mayor will have the unpleasant task of firing some thirty percent of the city's employees. Only maintenance and clerical workers will be left to do the job.

Since the Heights has always been paying more than it's share to help bail out the city how about having it secede from Jersey City from a line north of State Highway. We already have a city hall at Palisade Avenue and Ferry Street. Council Meetings could be held in the Grand Auditorium of No. 8 School which could also become a High School. It is already equipped with shops for manual training.

We have ample schools, No. 6, 25, 27, 28, and 8, four firehouses, the North Police Station, four parks, and some factory buildings available as shops for Public Works and garages. Since we no longer need to do any more planning or development in the Heights, just plain maintenance, we could easily come up with a 15 dollar a thousand tax rate on our present assessments. We could pay Jersey City or Union City for extra odd services we may need. Our problems could easily be solved. The rest of Jersey City could go right on redeveloping and giving out tax abatements to the bitter end.

And, oh yes, the reservoir! We would just leave it alone as more open space since we are already overdeveloped. We wouldn't have to hire planners to spoil it. We could have our own Historic District Commission. Jersey City politicians in their great wisdom have abolished theirs. We could then receive preservation grants from the Department of the Interior.

Coming Events

Tuesday, May 9th, remember to vote.

Tuesday, May 9th, at 7:30 p.m. -
RNA meeting at Harborview Healthcare Center.

Saturday, June 3rd
Sunday, June 4th -
SPRING CLEAN-UP!

Saturday, June 10th -
FLEAMARKET -
Riverview Park - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(For more information, see articles within the newsletter.)

THE RNA FIFTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

Those hazy, lazy days of summer will soon be upon us and there's no better way to spend them then with your friends at RNA. Our fifth Annual Flea Market will be held this June 10th, a Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. So we don't want any excuses why you can't stop by and share some good ole times with us.

It's a time for all neighbors and friends to spend a couple of hours together and have a lovely day. As we did last year, we shall have plenty of tables and vendors displaying goods to be sold. Our RNA table will once again be set up with donated articles you may want to browse through. If you wish to donate lamps, dishes, clothes or whatever else you have laying around your basements and attics, you may as long as they're in good condition. These items will be sold and the proceeds shall go into our treasury. Should you want to contact us to donate, please call 420-1490 or bring these items to the Flea Market early in the day. "Used but not abused items only!"

"Space only" is available at $10 for non-members and table rentals are $7 for RNA members (see attached application).

Aside from the many vendors, we will also have baked goods, hot dogs, coffee and sodas for sale. Your donation of homemade cookies and cakes will help make this a financial success. We haven't forgotten that some of you are on special diets, so we have a little bit for everybody. Our main concern is that all of you have a pleasant time with us. The Police Department will participate once again by fingerprinting our children free of charge, so please take advantage of this service. There will also be a 50/50 Raffle drawing.

We had such a good time last year meeting our neighbors that we would like all those who came last summer to bring along some friends. Neighborhoods are made richer by people in them who care: show us you're one of those neighbors, come down to Riverview Park on June 10th, we look forward to seeing you there!

Alice Soto & Gert Bodgan

(RAIN DATE for the flea market will be the following Saturday, June 17th.)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The FLEA MARKET is a big operation and we really need YOUR help. If you can do any of the following, please call Kathy Brennan at 963-0402.

Clean up Park (morning of Flea Market)
Pick up tables for transfer to park
Set up tables
Price items for RNA tables
Price baked goods
Work at RNA table
Work at baked goods table
Work at Hot Dog Stand
Advertising : Vendors, Posters etc.
Break down tables
Return tables.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
FIFTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
REGISTRATION FORM

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone No.:_____

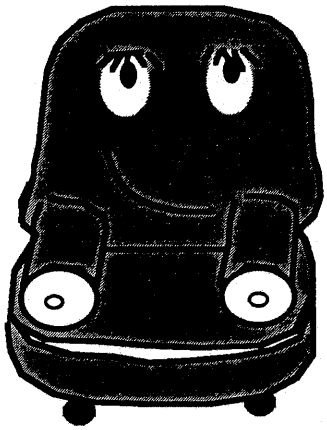
PRICE: RNA Members - $7.00 : TABLE RENTAL ____
Non-members - $10.00 : SPACE ONLY ____

All money is due no later than June 5, 1989.

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature :_____

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
Send Money to Carin Lewis at 242 Rear Odgen Avenue, Jersey City, N.J. 07307



Under the Chair

Riverview Neighborhood Association has provided information and organized events to help our neighbors, members and friends decide which of the approximately one hundred different candidates for mayor, ward council and council-at-large will best represent our community interests and do the best job possible to solve citywide problems. The two April issues of the RNA Newsletter were devoted to the issues and backgrounds of the council candidates for Wards "C" and "D". RNA also set up three special neighborhood meetings to meet all the mayoral candidates and their ward candidates. RNA has also participated in the two Heights debates for Mayor (April 23) and Council "D" (April 30).

The reason for all this effort and activity is to present the voter as much information as possible in determining the best people to lead our community and city for the next four years. We are faced with problems of high taxes, a bad revaluation, a run-away budget, diminished city services, overdevelopment of the waterfront, abandonment of the inner city, disregard for the zoning laws, increased traffic congestion, decreased parking, poor air quality, toxic dumping and pollution, increased crime and drug activity, an imminent state takeover of our school system and a police department with poor morale, bad response time and an inability to cope with the social problems of our population. These are just a few of the overwhelming issues confronting our city. RNA, based on the premise that we as an organization are not affiliated with any political party, organization or elected official, will not announce specific recommendations for any of the elected offices in this year's municipal election. BUT what we do strongly urge is that you, the individual voter, think long and think hard and then, vote your conscience: **VOTE FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR YOURSELF AND FOR YOUR FAMILY!**

THOUGHTS ON THE ELECTION

With dismay I have been listening to most of the candidates for mayor and intend to listen to the rest. All seem to have one notion in common: They are going to get "experts" to put the mess, which our city has become, in order. Having followed politics in this city and the country closely over the last thirty-five years I have seen experts come and go. What about the hundreds of millions of dollars spent by expert traffic and city planners over the last twenty-five years?

Both traffic and the waterfront are a mess. We are being choked to death by fumes from cars that try to maneuver through our streets in order to get to either the Lincoln or Holland Tunnels. We are squeezed to poverty by excessive taxes (a large part of which goes to pay those very same "experts"). When the budget is overdrawn, who gets laid off? Not those experts and their cohorts who sit in offices and shuffle papers (called making decisions!), but the guy who is out there in the street desperately trying to cope with the mess created by the experts.

Do our city fathers suggest to cut off the fat? No, they ask for more taxes. I am scared. The whole situation here and in the rest of the country is becoming more reminiscent of conditions in Germany in the Weimar Republic, just before Hilter came to power. Actually it was these conditions that made it possible for Hilter to get a foothold. People wanted an ordered life, a chance to walk the streets without fear, to own a house or apartment that would not be taken away from them because they were unable to pay the taxes (which would inevitably lead to their property being sold cheaply to a speculator by the local government).

Instead of so-called experts, listen to people with common sense. Don't forget, these experts went through a school system that has been going downhill for the last twenty years. They weren't taught how to do things, but how to talk a lot of nonsense that people could not understand and so eventually would give up listening. Think about it, we are living in a dangerous time. Would you like to repeat the mistakes the Germans made in the late twenties and early thirties? I most certainly would not. Wakeup, let your voice be heard, and take the advice of "experts" with a grain of salt. Most of them don't know what they are talking about. Look for people with common sense with or without a college degree.

RUTH CONRAD

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Two local projects of great concern to RNA have had their Board of Adjustment hearings postponed. The first, the project at 296 Palisade Avenue, (which the neighbors and developer, Michael Morgese, have been discussing since December, 1988) has been postponed for the second time. The Board did not assign any new date, although the developer's lawyer, Jon Campbell is trying for one in July. New notices must be sent out to all the residents within two hundred feet of the project. to inform them of the new date. This project has been unacceptable to the neighborhood because it is too big and too dense for the location even with the "changes" that the developer has initiated.

The second project, the proposed factory at the corner of Hutton Street and Webster Avenue, has also been postponed again and this time indefinitely. The Webster Avenue Block Association is following this project very carefully because of the implications of breaking the R-2 residential zoning with an industrial building.

TUMULTY PARK
RETURNED TO PEOPLE OF JERSEY CITY

On April 6th, Judge Robert E. Tarleton of the Superior Court of N. J., decided that the sale of Tumulty Park (Ogden Avenue & Cuneo Place) is void under the N.J. Green Acres statute.

Tumulty Park was "inadvertently" sold by the city of Jersey City to Ray Falk for $40,000 on May 30, 1984. Mr. Falk, even after being notified by the city that they wanted it back, sold the property to Odgen Associates for $160,000 on January 9, 1986. Both deeds have been voided. Mr. Falk and Ogden Associates will be compensated, the damages to be determined by independent arbitration.

Carmine Scarpa, assistant Corporation Counsel, represented the city of Jersey City. George P. Cook, Deputy Attorney General, represented the state of New Jersey.

This decision should send a clear message to everyone that Green Acres properties are protected and, as long as we are vigilant, they will note be lost through oversight, negligence, or collusion.

Annie Hart

(Editor's note: Annie Hart is one of the people largely responsible for finding out about this sale and bringing it to everyone's attention. I am sure this victory is very rewarding.)

PARK UPDATES

As we go to press, RNA has learned that the City has been awarded a $500,000. N.J. State Green Trust-Green Acres grant to preserve Mountain Road and Rocky Corner Park as open space. The two areas are to be included in a Palisades greenway recommended by the Regional Plan Association. We will find out more information for our next issue.

Joan Earls of Leisure Activities is in the process of drawing up plans to renovate Riverview Park. She is talking to city engineers and architects and hopes to present us with plans soon and to begin work around October, 1989.

Next month, RNA will print excerpts of a draft of a Hudson County Air Quality ordinance which was written by Carl Blumenthal of the New Jersey Environmental Lobby and proposed by Susan O'Kane.

DUES

RNA is in another calendar year and we ask that everyone pay their $3 dues. This money helps to defray the cost of mailing the newsletter. If you can't join us for our meetings, you may send your check, made out to RNA, to 232 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, N.J., 07307.

NEIGHBORHOOD SPRING CLEANING

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD
SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH

THE JERSEY CITY INCINERATOR AUTHORITY WILL PROVIDE DUMPSTERS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

117 OGDEN AVENUE
(Corner of Cuneo Place)
153 OGDEN AVENUE
(Corner of Ferry Street)
277 OGDEN AVENUE
(Corner of Griffith Street)

This is our chance to clean up the neighborhood. If everyone just cleaned up in front of their own home, it would go a long way to make our streets look good once again. Let's all pitch in for a real Spring Cleaning!

NEW YORK AVENUE
RENOVATED AND REOPENED

On Wednesday, April 26th, New York Avenue was reopened with an official delegation from City Hall. The newly renovated road will once again provide access from the Heights to Hoboken, the waterfront and New York City. On hand to observe the event were Ann Hart, Dean Howell and Ted Conrad-three of our members who worked with the Engineering Dept. to plan the new roadway. RNA thanks the city for finally doing something about this neglected road which in recent times had been the victim of illegal dumping. Unfortunately unless the Police, the Incinerator Authority, Sanitation and Public Works make a concerted effort to patrol and maintain this street, it will again revert to an illegal dumping site. Another problem still to be dealt with is the barrels of toxic chemicals that sit on the eastern shoulder of the road that must be removed.

HUDSON COUNTY NARCOTIC TASK FORCE NEEDS YOU!

YOU can make a difference in the war on drugs
YOU may have information that can help us
WE HAVE A HOT LINE:1-800-962-0056

WE HAVE A POST OFFICE BOX
P.O. BOX1877
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

Your information will be kept CONFIDENTIAL It can be ANONYMOUS.

PAUL M. DE PASCALE
HUDSON COUNTY PROSECUTOR

NEIGHBORHOOD VICTORY

After hearing two days of testimony, Municipal Housing Court Judge Richard Nieto decided that the owner of the properties 234-236 Ogden Avenue, Norman Wilson, was guilty of warehousing the two houses on that property and fined $48,000.00.

This is the second successful warehousing case in our neighborhood (the property at 285 Ogden Avenue was fined $48,000.00 last December).

Unfortunately, these are hollow victories for our community. Although we have made the city go after derelict landowners who are destabilizing our blocks by abandoning their properties and trying to over develop the land, we are not able to force these same people to correct the problems. Both guilty parties are appealing the decisions because they do not want to pay the fine or admit their guilt. Therefore we must still live with these problems everyday. The good thing is that the warehousing charges will be issued again by the Division of Property Conservation, until the owners do something with the properties.

When one thinks about the situation it is crazy. All RNA has ever asked of these and other developers is to respect the neighborhood and not build anything that would hurt or destroy the character of the community. All we asked of them is that they abide by the zoning of the area.

(Footnote: After the trial, RNA tried to set up an inspection by NHS-Neighborhood Housing Services- to estimate the cost of renovating the existing housing at 234-236 Ogden Avenue (for the purposes of negotiating with Norman Wilson to somehow fix up his properties). At the last moment, Mrs. Wilson, refused to allow the inspection to take place because she did not want NHS or RNA on the property. The lawyer implied that she was angry about situation and did not want to help or improve the situation at all.

$10 NEUTERING PROGRAM

If you are on any of the following programs, you can get your cat or dog, male or female, neutered for $10:

1. Food stamps
2. Aid to Families with Dependent Children
3. Medicaid
4. Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled
5. Lifeline Credit
6. Tenants Lifeline Assistance
7. Rental Assistance
8. Supplementary Security Income
9. General Public Assistance

Dr. Teitel, in Secaucus, Dr. Frezzo in Bayonne, and Dr. Tuder in Bayonne are all participating veterinarians in our area.

If you are not on any of the above programs, but want to save some money on neutering, you can call Friends of Animals at 800-631-2212 Monday through Friday, 9 to 5. Prices are: male cats - $20, Female cats - $33, male dogs - $34, female dogs - $49.

IT'S THE LAW!

(RNA is happy to see the addition of several new businesses to Palisade Avenue: a restaurant , food market, furniture store, video rental, two launderettes, real estate office, and window store. Hopefully, this will signal the rebirth of the avenue as a commercial as well as a residential center for our community. RNA welcomes everyone to our neighborhood. But we also expect that the new merchants will abide by the law and serve as an example to the residents of the area. In this regard we are publishing a portion of the Jersey City Municipal code pertaining to the use of public sidewalks and streets.)

ARTICLE IV. COMMERICAL USAGE OF SIDEWALKS AND STREETS

Sec. 24-16: Public sidewalks or streets; prohibited commercial or other usage, exception for refuse collection.

A) No person may place, leave or display any merchandise, advertising, signs or waste material:

(1) On any public street or sidewalk; or

(2) In front of or adjacent to the exterior of any store or commercial premises between the building line and the public sidewalk; or

(3) In any vestibule, lobby or exterior area of a shop or commercial premises.

B) Merchants shall be permitted to hold one sidewalk sale per month for a period not to exceed three (3) consecutive days by permit to be issued by the Superintendent of Buildings.

C) The Superintendent of Buildings shall enforce this provision. Violators shall be liable to a fine of not more than two hundred dollars ($200) or imprisonment for a term of not more than thirty (30) days, or both.

D) Nothing in this section shall prevent the placing of debris or waste material in proper receptacles for regular municipal or private collection.
(Source: Jersey City Municipal Code)

FOOTNOTE: RNA would like to organize a meeting with all the businesses on Palisade Avenue- old and new- from Cuneo Place to Bowers Street. The purpose of this meeting would be to begin a dialogue between the merchants and RNA about concerns of mutual interest: crime and drugs, sanitation, noise, traffic, parking, and improvement of city maintenance services for our area.

ADVERTISING

We would like to solicit ads from local businesses in our area. It would be a good way for the merchants to advertise local sales and specials to the neighborhood and it would also help with the mailing of our RNA Newsletter. Anyone wishing to place an ad in the newsletter (circulation: approximately 500), please call 798-0493.

Happy Mother's Day

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JERSEY CITY, N.J.
07302
PERMIT # 153
CAR.-RT. PRESORT

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

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Hank Cesari
Vice-chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

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Sgt. at Arms

Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

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COMMUNITY AWARENESS
Carin Lewis

NEWSLETTER
Kathy Brennan

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Hank Cesari

ENVIRONMENT
Ann Hart